

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Key West Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

November 1988

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TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

C/Ops

12 Dec 1988

2.

3.

C/E&PS

12/13

4.

DD/FBIS

14 Dec 1988

5.

D/FBIS

R

6.

7.

PO/RA

12/15

8.

SA/CD

15 Dec 1988

9.

DC/AS

12/20

10.

C/AS

O

11.

C/B&F/AS

H

12.

C/PERS

ea

13.

14.

C/AG

15.

Exec. Reg.

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
KEY WEST BUREAU



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STAT

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FBIS-4084-88

5 December 1988

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Key West Bureau--November 1988

I. GENERAL

In a major surprise this month, we and headquarters discovered that a new state PBS-affiliated TV transmitter--which will be only 20 miles from Key West--has been granted a license to broadcast on channel 13, currently the best station we have to monitor Cuba's primary TV network--Tele-Rebelde. As a result, we and ESG look forward to working closely together in the coming months trying to figure ways to either block out the unwanted signal or improve our reception of Rebelde from another channel.

Key West this month hosted the four House Appropriations Committee staffers who are studying the value of open-source material. The group, which toured the bureau on 28 and 29 November, also met with a local military lateral consumer before returning to Washington.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The Cuban media this month announced that Soviet leader Gorbachev will pay an "official and friendly" visit to Havana in December at the invitation of Fidel. In preparation for the big event, the bureau asked to "borrow" [redacted] our erstwhile deputy chief, back from headquarters to help us cope with the anticipated load.

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2. The quadripartite talks on Cuban disengagement from Angola continued to get full play in the media this month. Although the discussions seemed to be hung up on the verification issue, Radio Reloj quoted Fidel in Mexico City as saying the negotiations are at an "advanced stage."

3. In other newsworthy stories, Fidel reportedly became "very angry" when the subject of TV Marti came up in his talks this month with visiting Senator Pell, according to Bonaire Trans World Radio from the Netherlands Antilles. Unfortunately, the Cuban media provided no such details, saying only that the two had met.

4. Elsewhere, the local radios in Haiti had ample horror stories to report this month as murder and mayhem continued in that country. In recounting events that would have embarrassed Lucrezia Borgia, the local media reported the mysterious poisoning of the infamous Colonel Paul, who at first was said to have suffered a fatal heart attack over his soup. In the midst of all this and other turmoil, Deputy Chief [redacted] streamlined the procedures we use to receive traffic each day from [redacted] our contractor in Port-au-Prince. [redacted] is also now signing off on her own copy, using the nom de plume "Aztec", and taking the responsibility that goes

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SIAI

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with it.

B. Technical/Cruising

1. The bureau chief and deputy visited the Air Force's "Fat Albert" aerostat installation at Cudjoe Key some 20 miles north of Key West early in the month. The site will be home to the TV Marti balloon that will broadcast into Cuba. The bureau chief paid a second visit later to meet with a visiting DOD/USIA delegation to discuss how the Marti operation might affect our mission.

2. Bureau technician [] spent considerable time this month preparing for the visit in early December of C/ESG and a group of engineers from the American Nucleonics Corporation. The contractors will use Key West to demonstrate their technical means to suppress unwanted TV signals. In other work, [] earlier made extensive changes in the TV monitoring room to simplify our operation.

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3. Thanks to a suggestion from Radio Broadcast Monitor [] we renovated part of our cruising room and now have a more convenient spot to do our satellite TV monitoring. At the same time, we created work space for two more monitors in case any future Panamanian TDYers need additional elbow room. [] also spent most of the latter part of the month cruising out secondary frequency adjustments to the fall/winter broadcasts beamed to this hemisphere by Moscow.

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4. [] compiled a lengthy report this month to ADD recommending a slew of suggestions on how to enhance future versions of the FBA software.

C. Communications

The bureau successfully tested its IDD communications system with Panama on 8 November, demonstrating our capability to serve as an IDD communications backstop.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. On the recruiting front, we lost a prime candidate for a monitor/editor position when [], who had been put into processing last month, dropped out. We currently have another good candidate here who will be tested soon.

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2. Junior Monitor/Editor [] received a well-deserved promotion to GS-09 this month.

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3. Our newest monitor/editor, [], attended the "CIA Today and Tomorrow" course this month in chilly Arlington.

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B. Building and Grounds

1. Captain William Denning, the commanding officer of the Naval Air Station in Key West, promised to help us find sufficient floor space should a larger than expected number of our colleagues [] be forced to relocate here. Right now, however, we continue to believe we can accommodate the dozen people called for in the original emergency relocation plan.

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2. A Navy Occupational Safety and Health team inspected the bureau this month as part of an overall Naval Air Station survey. With the exception of a few minor problems which we have asked the Public Works Department to correct, we were declared safe for human occupation.

3. In our efforts to make the houses more attractive and comfortable, we had new kitchen tile put down in three more of our townhouses. In addition, we have begun to place wall-to-wall carpeting in all the housing. We also put in some more plants and had the beach cleaned up after tropical storm Keith dumped a good share of the seaweed and beer cans from the Straits of Florida in our backyards.

*RESERVED IN
ORIGINAL PLAN
AS "TO COSTLY"
+ IMPRACTICAL!*

IV. VISITS

A. To the bureau:

House Appropriations Committee staff members Richard Adams, Ranald Ash, Robert Goffus, and Carroll Hauver, 28-29 Nov.

B. From the bureau:

Monitor/Editor [] to the Arlington Chamber of Commerce Building to attend "CIA Today and Tomorrow," 27 Nov-2 Dec.

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V. COMMUNITY EVENTS

During the week of 14 November, bureau personnel had an opportunity to participate in this year's Cuba and the Caribbean Symposium sponsored by the U.S. Forces Caribbean. During lulls in the meetings, we ended up giving more than a few tours of our facility to visitors from the Intelligence Community and various military commands.

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Chief, Key West Bureau

cc: C/Panama Bureau, C/Paraguay Bureau